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Supplementary appendix

This appendix formed part of the original submission and has been peer reviewed.
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Web appendix: Improving the management of multimorbidity using a patient-centred care model: pragmatic cluster randomised trial of the 3D approach

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Appendix: Training

Each member of clinical staff delivering the intervention attended two half days of training. These covered key concepts for the 3D approach. The training included case based discussion, demonstration of the interactive electronic template, reflection, evaluation and 'homework'.

The content included:

- Overview of the 3D approach
- What is patient centred care?
- Why is continuity of care important and how can it be improved?
- The pros and cons of co-ordinated reviews for all health conditions at once
- Identifying the patient's main priorities and concerns
- Screening for depression and the importance of mental health in multimorbidity
- Polypharmacy and medication adherence
- Goal setting and health care planning
- Use of the interactive 3D template

In addition a separate training meeting was held with the practice reception and administrative staff. This covered:

- The importance of continuity of care and strategies for how to support this
- Offering longer appointments when appropriate
- The need to change recall systems, cancelling disease focused reviews for trial patients and inviting them to 3D reviews instead
- How to run and export regular searches about progress with undertaking the 3D reviews

Appendix Table 1 Comparison between patients invited and recruited

	Patients invited but not randomized (n= 3132)	Invited and randomized participants (n=1546)
Female: n (%)	1680 (54%)	783 (51%)
Age: mean (SD)	71·3 (13·5)	70·8 (11·5)
Total no. of long term conditions: mean (SD)	3·3 (0·5)	3·2 (0·5)
Long term condition: n (%)		
Cardiovascular Disease	2875 (92%)	1445 (93%)
Stroke or TIA	1050 (34%)	527 (34%)
Diabetes	1613 (52%)	812 (53%)
COPD or Asthma	1456 (46%)	770 (50%)
Epilepsy	185 (6%)	76 (5%)
Atrial Fibrillation	928 (30%)	530 (34%)
Mental Health	200 (6%)	66 (4%)
Depression	1250 (40%)	559 (36%)
Dementia	340 (11%)	60 (4%)
Learning Disability	84 (3%)	14 (1%)
Rheumatoid Arthritis	196 (6%)	103 (7%)

Appendix Table 2 Secondary outcome measures at baseline

	Usual care (n=749)	Intervention (n=797)
Health and illness data		
Mean EQ-5D-5L score (SD), n	0.542 (0.292), 747	0.574 (0.282), 795
Self-rated health: no. of patients 'good' or above / total no.(%)	231/741 (31%)	291/783 (37%)
Bayliss illness burden score: ¹ mean (SD), n	19.5 (12.7), 700	18.2 (12.0), 758
Self-reported chronic conditions: median(IQR), n	7.0 (5.0, 10.0), 748	7.0 (5.0, 9.0), 795
Hospital And Depression Score (HADS) Anxiety score: ² mean (SD), n	6.4 (4.8), 740	6.1 (4.6), 785
HADS Depression score: ² mean (SD), n	7.0 (4.5), 743	6.3 (4.2), 791
Treatment burden		
Multimorbidity Treatment Burden Questionnaire score: mean (SD), n	15.7 (15.9), 736	13.3 (14.7), 789
Morisky Medication Adherence Score 8 item: ³ mean (SD), n ^a	6.7 (1.4), 749	6.8 (1.4), 797
No. of different drugs prescribed in the three months before baseline: mean (SD), n	11.3 (5.4), 738	11.1 (5.2), 778
Patient-centred care		
PACIC score: ⁴ mean (SD), n	2.4 (1.0), 608	2.6 (0.9), 624
CARE doctor score: ⁵ mean (SD), n	38.8 (9.8), 714	40.8 (9.1), 781
CARE nurse score: ⁵ mean (SD), n	39.0 (9.1), 565	40.7 (9.2), 610
Patient discussed most important problems	n=716	n=763
Not at all	145 (20%)	114 (15%)
Rarely	128 (18%)	123 (16%)
Some of the time	249 (35%)	271 (36%)
Almost always	194 (27%)	255 (33%)
Care joined up	n=716	n=763
Not at all	111 (16%)	63 (8%)
Rarely	96 (13%)	69 (9%)
Some of the time	280 (39%)	310 (41%)
Almost always	229 (32%)	321 (42%)
Overall satisfaction	n=722	n=772
Very dissatisfied	20 (3%)	16 (2%)
Fairly dissatisfied	37 (5%)	24 (3%)
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	94 (13%)	55 (7%)
Fairly satisfied	251 (35%)	238 (31%)
Very satisfied	320 (44%)	439 (57%)
No. of patients self-reporting having a written care, health or treatment plan: no. of patients/total no. (%)	74/739 (10%)	77/787 (10%)
Process measures		
Continuity of care	0.3 (0.3), 712	0.4 (0.3), 767
Continuity of Care index: ⁶ Mean (SD), n ^{b,c}		
Visit Entropy: ⁷ Mean (SD), n ^{b,d}	101.1 (66.1), 712	103.9 (67.1), 767
Quality of disease management. QOF indicators met: ⁸ Mean (SD), n ^e	84.5 (18.6), 526	77.2 (23.2), 552
No. of primary care consultations with doctor: ^b median (IQR), n	7.0 (4.0, 11.0), 739	8.0 (5.0, 12.0), 778
No. of primary care consultations with nurse: ^b median (IQR), n	4.0 (2.0, 7.0), 739	4.0 (2.0, 8.0), 778

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^bFace to face (home or surgery or nursing home) or phone consultations over the 12-months before recruitment.

^cRange from 0 to 1 with 0 indicating no continuity of care; patient saw a different provider at each consultation and 1 indicating perfect continuity of care; patient saw the same provider at each consultation.

^dRange from 0 to $-\log_2(1/k)$, where k is the total number of care providers visited, with the minimum of 0 indicating perfect continuity of care; patient saw the same provider at each consultation and the maximum of $-\log_2(1/k)$ indicating no continuity of care; patient saw a different provider at each consultation.

^eThe % of indicators that were relevant to each patient that were met, averaged across all patients. This is the 'patient average' approach of Reeves et al⁸

Appendix Table 3 Sensitivity analyses of primary outcome at 15 months follow-up

	Usual care		Intervention		Adjusted difference in means ^a	95% Confidence Interval	P
	EQ-5D-5L unadjusted mean (SD or SE)	N	EQ-5D-5L unadjusted mean (SD or SE)	N			
Primary analysis^b	0·504 (0·012 ^c)	749	0·533 (0·012 ^c)	797	0·00	-0·02, 0·02	0·93
Sensitivity analysis in relation to missing EQ-5D-5L							
No multiple imputation; death set as zero	0·517 (0·311)	670	0·546 (0·303)	691	0·00	-0·02, 0·02	0·82
No multiple imputation; death left as missing	0·542 (0·296)	638	0·585 (0·275)	645	0·01	-0·01, 0·02	0·53
Imputation using last observation carried forward, including deceased patients	0·512 (0·310)	749	0·548 (0·300)	797	0·01	-0·01, 0·03	0·37
No multiple imputation; death set as zero; adjusted by days between recruitment and return of 15-month questionnaire	0·517 (0·311)	670	0·546 (0·303)	691	0·01	-0·02, 0·03	0·52

^a All analyses are multi-level linear regression models adjusted by centre, baseline EQ-5D-5L score, practice list size and deprivation score. Practice is included as a random effect.

^b Using multiple imputation by chain equations including baseline, 9 month, 15 month and EQ-5D-5L data as available, intervention arm, stratifying/minimisation variables and other covariates that were informative of missingness.

^c Standard error

Appendix Table 4 Sub-group analyses of primary outcome at 15 months follow-up

	Usual care		Intervention					
	EQ-5D-5L unadjusted mean (SD)	N ^a	EQ-5D-5L unadjusted mean (SD)	N ^a	Adjusted difference in means ^b	95% Confidence Interval	Interaction term (95% CI)	Interaction term P- value
Participants by median age								
<72 years	0.532 (0.321)	334	0.566 (0.312)	324	0.00	-0.03, 0.03		
≥72 years	0.501 (0.301)	336	0.529 (0.295)	367	0.00	-0.03, 0.03	0.00 (-0.04, 0.05)	0.87
Number of long-term conditions								
Three	0.539 (0.305)	534	0.581 (0.285)	558	0.01	-0.02, 0.03		
Four or more	0.428 (0.320)	136	0.402 (0.334)	133	-0.05	-0.09, 0.00	-0.05 (-0.11, 0.00)	0.05
Deprivation								
England: Quartiles of IMD score ^c								
1 st quartile	0.569 (0.290)	119	0.633 (0.277)	124	0.04	-0.01, 0.10		
2 nd quartile	0.537 (0.345)	140	0.568 (0.298)	115	-0.04	-0.09, 0.01	-0.08 (-0.15, -0.01)	
3 rd quartile	0.563 (0.285)	105	0.536 (0.305)	127	-0.03	-0.08, 0.03	-0.07 (-0.15, 0.00)	
4 th quartile	0.465 (0.310)	118	0.497 (0.296)	122	0.01	-0.05, 0.06	-0.04 (-0.11, 0.04)	0.11 ^d
Scotland: Quartiles of SIMD score ^c								
1 st quartile	0.506 (0.306)	47	0.583 (0.316)	55	0.06	-0.02, 0.14		
2 nd quartile	0.499 (0.312)	34	0.502 (0.324)	56	-0.08	-0.16, 0.01	-0.13 (-0.25, -0.02)	
3 rd quartile	0.456 (0.321)	48	0.494 (0.311)	52	-0.01	-0.09, 0.07	-0.07 (-0.18, 0.05)	
4 th quartile	0.450 (0.291)	59	0.476 (0.311)	40	0.02	-0.07, 0.10	-0.04 (-0.15, 0.07)	0.16 ^d
Depression								
No	0.536 (0.318)	424	0.571 (0.289)	458	0.00	-0.02, 0.03		
Yes	0.483 (0.297)	246	0.498 (0.326)	233	-0.02	-0.05, 0.02	-0.02 (-0.07, 0.03)	0.40

^a Numerator includes those who died, who were attributed an EQ-5D-5L score of zero

^b All analyses are multi-level linear regression models adjusted by centre, baseline EQ-5D-5L score, practice list size and deprivation score. Practice is included as a random effect.

^c Using participant postcode matched to England IMD data 2010 or Scotland SIMD data from 2012

^d p-value from likelihood ratio test comparing model with interaction term against model without interaction term

Appendix Table 5 Secondary outcome measures at 9 months follow-up

	Usual care	Intervention	Adjusted difference	95% CI	P-value
Health and illness data					
EQ-5D-5L: mean (SD), n	0.526 (0.306), 684	0.566 (0.294), 699	0.01	-0.01, 0.03	0.53
Self-rated health: no. of patients rating 'good' or above/ total no (%) ^a	237/666 (36%)	268/672 (40%)	0.95 ^b	0.76, 1.19	0.66
Bayliss measure of illness burden: ¹ mean (SD), n	18.1 (12.8), 611	17.6 (13.0), 636	0.30 ^c	-0.65, 1.26	0.54
Hospital And Depression Score (HADS) Anxiety score: ² mean (SD), n	6.1 (4.7), 638	5.7 (4.6), 652	-0.18 ^c	-0.50, 0.14	0.26
HADS Depression score: mean (SD), n	6.6 (4.5), 641	6.1 (4.4), 654	0.07 ^c	-0.22, 0.36	0.65
Treatment burden					
Multimorbidity Treatment Burden Questionnaire score: mean (SD), n	14.4 (16.0), 640	12.1 (14.8), 658	-1.09 ^c	-2.29, 0.12	0.08
Morisky Medication Adherence Score 8 item: ³ mean (SD), n ^d	6.6 (1.4), 749	6.7 (1.3), 797	-0.03 ^c	-0.14, 0.08	0.55
Patient-centred care					
PACIC score: ⁴ mean (SD), n	2.4 (0.9), 554	2.7 (1.0), 556	0.28 ^c	0.18, 0.38	<0.0001
CARE doctor score: ⁵ mean (SD), n	37.5 (10.2), 632	40.6 (9.8), 649	1.44 ^c	0.47, 2.41	0.0035
Patient discussed most important problems: No. reporting "almost always" / total no. (%) ^a	167/634 (26%)	249/639 (39%)	1.60 ^b	1.27, 2.01	0.0001
Care joined up: no. reporting "almost always" / total no. (%) ^a	196/629 (31%)	252/637 (40%)	1.34 ^b	1.03, 1.74	0.0305
Overall satisfaction: no. reporting "very satisfied" / total no. (%) ^a	238/634 (38%)	359/648 (55%)	1.62 ^b	1.30, 2.03	<0.0001

^a Ordinal variable, dichotomized for ease of presentation. Full details of question and responses available in Table S6.

^b Adjusted odds ratio from multi-level ordinal logistic regression. Adjusted by centre, baseline outcome score, practice list size and deprivation score. Practice is included as a random effect.

^c Beta-coefficients. Analyses are multi-level linear regression models adjusted by centre, baseline outcome score, practice list size and deprivation score. Practice is included as a random effect.

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Appendix Table 6 Secondary outcomes at 9 and 15 months: full details of ordinal outcomes

Outcome	9 months		15 months	
	Usual care (n=749)	Intervention (n=797)	Usual care (n=749)	Intervention (n=797)
In general, would you say your health is:	N=666	N=672	N=631	N=642
Poor	142 (21%)	120 (18%)	137 (22%)	116 (18%)
Fair	287 (43%)	284 (42%)	264 (42%)	284 (44%)
Good	186 (28%)	205 (31%)	169 (27%)	177 (28%)
Very good	45 (7%)	58 (9%)	51 (8%)	58 (9%)
Excellent	6 (1%)	5 (1%)	10 (2%)	7 (1%)
When receiving care in the last six months did you discuss what was most important for you in managing your own health?	N=634	N=639	N=599	N=612
Not at all	109 (17%)	66 (10%)	110 (18%)	69 (11%)
Rarely	115 (18%)	86 (13%)	111 (19%)	69 (11%)
Some of the time	243 (38%)	238 (37%)	225 (38%)	218 (36%)
Almost always	167 (26%)	249 (39%)	153 (26%)	256 (42%)
Do you think the support and care you receive is joined up and working for you?	N=629	N=637	N=603	N=614
Not at all	91 (14%)	46 (7%)	77 (13%)	49 (8%)
Rarely	78 (12%)	55 (9%)	85 (14%)	49 (8%)
Some of the time	264 (42%)	284 (45%)	268 (44%)	259 (42%)
Almost always	196 (31%)	252 (40%)	173 (29%)	257 (42%)
In general, how satisfied are you with the care that you have had at your GP surgery or health centre?	N=634	N=648	N=608	N=614
Very dissatisfied	24 (4%)	13 (2%)	20 (3%)	12 (2%)
Fairly dissatisfied	40 (6%)	29 (4%)	31 (5%)	32 (5%)
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	81 (13%)	59 (9%)	91 (15%)	50 (8%)
Fairly satisfied	251 (40%)	188 (29%)	230 (38%)	175 (29%)
Very satisfied	238 (38%)	359 (55%)	236 (39%)	345 (56%)

Appendix Table 7 Completion of the 3D reviews

Outcome	Intervention (n=797)
	n/N (%) ^a
Out of those who had at least one GP or Nurse review:	
Patients most important problem noted ^b	616/622 (99%)
EQ5D pain question noted ^b	611/622 (98%)
Depression screening: PHQ9 entered ^b	599/622 (96%)
Patient agenda printed ^{b,d}	579/622 (93%)
Medication adherence noted ^c	506/599 (84%)
At least one patient goal noted ^c	590/599 (98%)
At least one patient action noted in health plan ^c	559/599 (93%)
At least one GP action noted in health plan ^c	554/599 (92%)
3D health plan printed ^c	461/598 (77%)
^a Denominators related to the number of people eligible e.g. 622 patients had at least one nurse review and 599 had at least one GP review.	
^b In at least one nurse review	
^c In at least one GP review	

Appendix Table 8· Complier averaged causal effect (CACE) analysis

	Mean EQ-5D-5L (SD), n at 15-month follow up		Adjusted difference in means	95% Confidence Interval	P-value
	Usual care	Intervention			
Participants by amount of intervention received:					
None (no GP and no nurse 3D appointments)	0·517 (0·311), 670	0·418 (0·336), 107			
Partial (at least one GP or nurse 3D appointment)		0·498 (0·336), 207	0·00 ^a	-0·04, 0·03	0·796
Full (two GP and two nurse 3D appointments)		0·609 (0·256), 377	0·00 ^b	-0·03, 0·02	0·798

All analyses are adjusted by centre, baseline EQ-5D-5L score, GP practice list size and GP practice deprivation score. GP practice is included as a cluster effect in the estimation of the variance-covariance matrix.

^aCombining those in the none and partial compliance groups into the non-compliance group

^bCombining those in the partial and full compliance group into compliance group

Notes:

Compliance (at the patient level) was defined as ‘full’ if two GP 3D appointments and two nurse 3D appointments were attended over 15 months; ‘partial’ – at least one GP or nurse 3D appointment attended, but not full attendance; and ‘none’ – no GP 3D appointment and no nurse 3D appointment attended.

Using an instrumental variable regression model with randomised group as the instrument and an indicator variable for compliance, the CACE analysis was conducted in two ways: first combining the partial and none compliers into the non-compliance group and, second, combining those in the partial and full compliance group into the compliance group. Both analyses show that there is no evidence of a difference in effect in the intervention group compared with the usual care group. Although there appears to be a trend of greater effect of the intervention in those who had full attendance, there was no difference between trial arms after adjustment because greater attendance was associated with higher EQ-5D-5L at baseline.

Appendix Updated systematic review incorporating previous trials and this trial

The last search for the Cochrane review of interventions for multimorbidity was conducted in September 2015.⁹ We conducted searches in Medline and the Cochrane library in August 2017 using a search strategy adapted from that in the Cochrane review to identify trials published since September 2015, and attempted to update the meta-analyses in respect of quality of life and the PACIC measure in the light of these more recent trials and the 3D trial. This updated review identified a further 11 studies.¹⁰⁻²⁰ and one previously identified study with more recent published data.²¹

We have included the trial by Kennedy et al²² in the above analyses because it was included in the Cochrane review, although is not described by the authors as an intervention for multimorbidity, and patients did not have to have multimorbidity to be included. Similarly several of the other trials are interventions for specific comorbid combinations of conditions, and not appropriate as a general approach to managing multimorbidity.

With respect to quality of life, the Cochrane review identified ten trials with relevant data.²²⁻³¹ These described studies which varied widely in terms of eligible population, setting and outcome measures. The Cochrane review authors were able to enter six of these studies into a meta-analysis, but did not report a pooled effect size due to substantial heterogeneity ($I^2=73\%$). In our updated review we identified seven further trials reporting quality of life.^{11,13-16,18,20,21} We have combined the results from the trials from the Cochrane review, the additional trials we identified and the results of the 3D trial and shown these in a Forest plot (see Appendix Figure 1). The data from the individual studies previously included in the Cochrane review are reported slightly differently in this figure from the data used in the original review because this figure is based on the generic inverse variance method which takes account of adjusted rather than unadjusted analyses of effect where these are available.

In extracting data for this analysis we chose any measure described by the authors as a measure of quality of life. Where studies used the SF36 we included data for the Physical Health summary score. Where studies reported data at multiple time-points we used the time-point closest to 12 months follow-up.

References for the studies within this figure are included in the bibliography as follows: Katon,³⁰ Martin,²¹ Kennedy,²² Boulton²⁰ Barley,²⁷ Coventry,²⁹ Garvey,²⁸ Ekdahl,¹⁸ Muth,¹³ Koberlein-Neu,¹⁵ Mercer,¹⁴ Fortin,¹⁶ Gonzalez Ortega,¹¹ Salisbury (refers to this paper).

Appendix Figure 1 Forest plot of trials of interventions in primary care for patients with multimorbidity

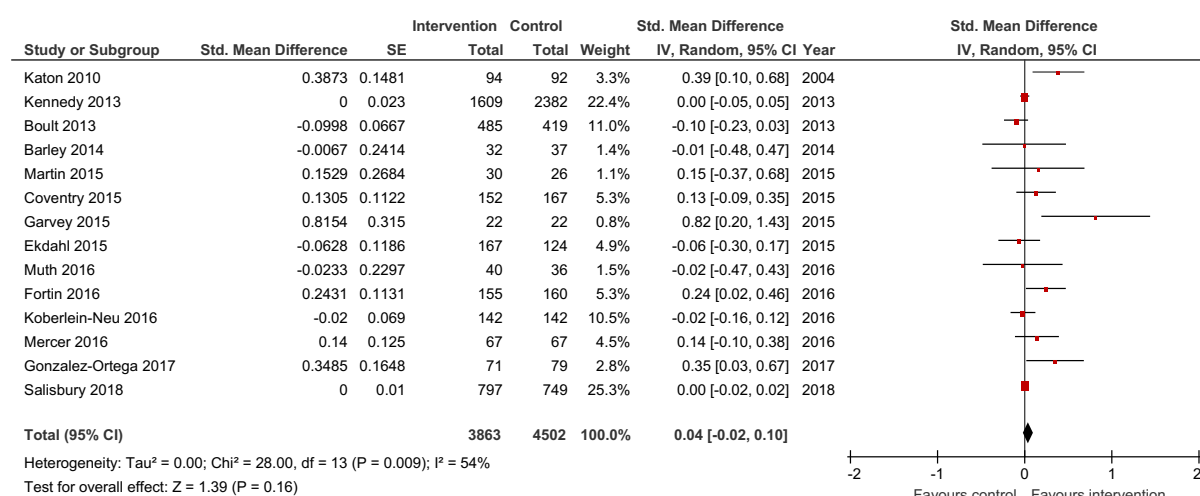
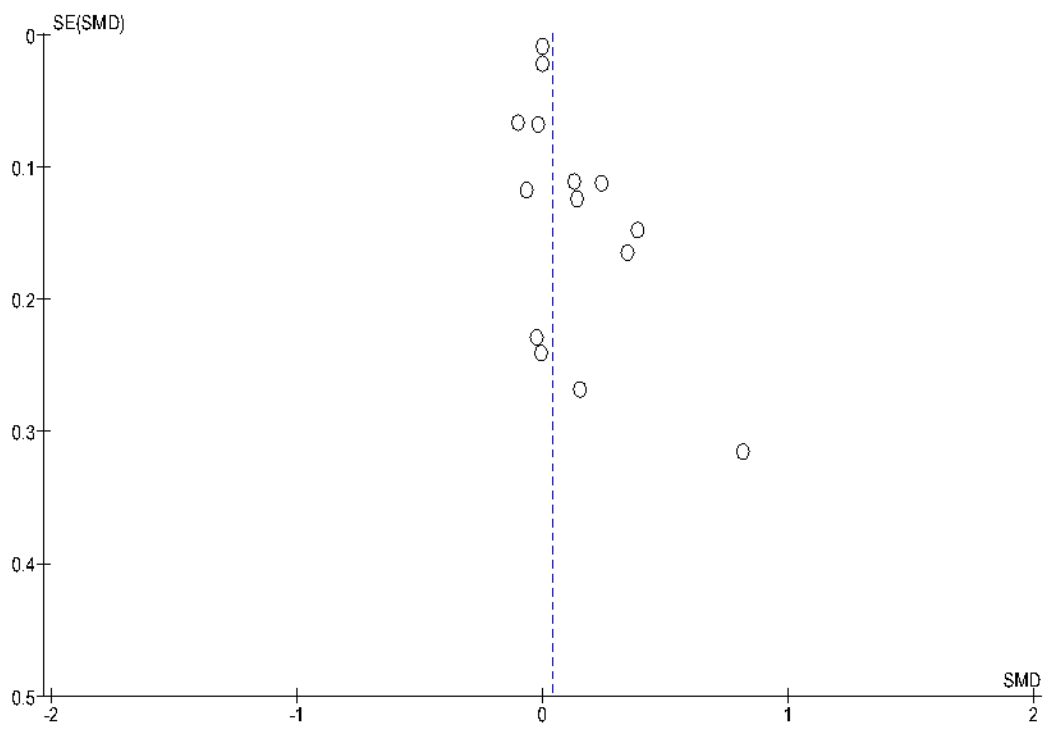


Figure 1 provides further evidence of little or no benefit in terms of quality of life, in that the pooled effect estimate is very small and the confidence interval overlaps zero. The updated analysis also shows high levels of heterogeneity so the pooled effect should be treated with considerable caution. There is also the possibility of publication bias, since a funnel plot shows asymmetry with the largest trials showing no evidence of effect (Figure 2).

Appendix Figure 2 Funnel plot



With regard to the PACIC measure, the Cochrane review identified two studies reporting this outcome.^{29,32} We identified one more recent study.¹² The different studies reported data in different ways and were unsuitable for meta-analysis. However, all of the studies which have reported this outcome, including the 3D study, have confirmed that interventions to improve management of multimorbidity have a positive effect on patient-centred chronic care management as measured by PACIC.

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